



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CAROL A. MURRAY, P.E.
COMMISSIONER



August 20, 2003

His Excellency, Craig R. Benson, Governor
and Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: I-95 One-Way Toll Collection

REQUESTED RESOLUTION

Resolved that, in accordance with RSA 237:9 and RSA 237:24 (copies attached), that the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation be authorized to temporarily adjust the toll rates for all classes of vehicles on the Blue Star portion of the New Hampshire Turnpike System serviced by Hampton Mainline Toll Plaza.

- 2 Further resolved, that the new toll rates be established as shown on the attached Schedule A for a period of six (6) weeks. This rate schedule reflects a doubling of the toll for Northbound traffic on I-95, Blue Star Turnpike serviced by the Hampton Mainline Plaza only. The Southbound traffic at this plaza shall be toll free during this period. No change to the current rates at the Hampton Ramp Toll Plaza or any other toll plaza will be made.

EXPLANATION


Increased traffic volumes on I-95 have resulted in unacceptable congestion along this important transportation corridor in the southeast region of the State. The capacity of the toll plaza in Hampton to process traffic is limited given current collection strategies and existing hardware, further contributing to the congestion along the corridor. In an effort to improve the capacity of the Hampton Toll Plaza several options have been, and continue to be considered, including adding toll lanes and introducing EZ-Pass toll collection.

It is now proposed that implementation of one-way tolling be tried as another potential for increasing through put and reducing congestion at the plaza. This request is to establish a trial program which will evaluate the effectiveness of one-way tolling to provide congestion relief to I-95. This temporary rate change will be effective as of 12:00 a.m., August 22, 2003 through 12:00 p.m., October 2, 2003, encompassing a six week period of time. During this trial period, the Department will evaluate issues relative to traffic safety, traffic congestion, traffic diversion to other roadways, impact on revenue, effects on commercial traffic, and regional concerns.

This trial period can be terminated by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,


for Carol A. Murray, P.E.
Commissioner

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Attachment

Rate Schedule

Southbound

Station

Rates

North Bound Traffic	
Class 1	\$1.00
Class 2	\$1.25
Class 2A	\$1.25
Class 3	\$1.50
Class 3A	\$1.50
Class 4	\$1.75
Class 4A	\$1.75
Class 5	\$2.00
Class 6	\$2.50
Class 7	\$3.00
Class 8	\$3.50
Class 9	\$4.00

South Bound Traffic	
Class 1	\$1.00
Class 2	\$1.25
Class 2A	\$1.25
Class 3	\$1.50
Class 3A	\$1.50
Class 4	\$1.75
Class 4A	\$1.75
Class 5	\$2.00
Class 6	\$2.50
Class 7	\$3.00
Class 8	\$3.50
Class 9	\$4.00

North Bound Traffic	
Class 1	\$2.00
Class 2	\$2.50
Class 2A	\$2.50
Class 3	\$3.00
Class 3A	\$3.00
Class 4	\$3.50
Class 4A	\$3.50
Class 5	\$4.00
Class 6	\$5.00
Class 7	\$6.00
Class 8	\$7.00
Class 9	\$8.00

South Bound Traffic	
Class 1	\$0.00
Class 2	\$0.00
Class 2A	\$0.00
Class 3	\$0.00
Class 3A	\$0.00
Class 4	\$0.00
Class 4A	\$0.00
Class 5	\$0.00
Class 6	\$0.00
Class 7	\$0.00
Class 8	\$0.00
Class 9	\$0.00

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CHAPTER 237

TURNPIKE SYSTEM

Section 237:9

237:9 Tolls. – The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the New Hampshire turnpike system or any part of the right-of-way and other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner's proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account for the New Hampshire turnpike system and the operating expenses and maintenance costs of the system shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after payment of operating expenses and maintenance costs, there shall be paid the interest and principal on the bonds issued to finance the system. Fourteen days previous to the time any interest or principal is payable, on any general obligation bonds issued to finance the system, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and, except as otherwise provided in RSA 237:10, if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his warrant on the highway fund to cover any deficit and if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. Any funds paid out from the state's highway fund or general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for any portion of the system by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further system extensions in accordance with RSA 237:5, II(m). No provision of this chapter shall constitute a covenant with bondholders with respect to the charging, collection or disposition of tolls.

Source. RSA 256-C:8. 1971, 520:1. 1981, 87:1. 1985, 19:5; 402:6, I(a)(8). 1987, 403:4. 1991, 301:9, eff. Aug. 23, 1991.

CHAPTER 237

TURNPIKE SYSTEM

Eastern New Hampshire Turnpike

Section 237:24

237:24 Tolls. –

I. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the eastern New Hampshire turnpike or any part of the right-of-way and other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner's proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account, and the operating expenses and maintenance of the turnpike shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after payment of operation and maintenance, the governor, with the approval of the council, shall pay the interest and principal on the bonds issued hereunder. Fourteen days previous to the time said interest and principal are payable, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his warrant on the highway fund to cover any deficit, and, if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. The full faith and credit of the state is pledged to the payment of the principal of and the interest on the bonds as they become due and payable. Any funds paid out from the state's general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for the completion of the turnpike by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further toll road extensions in accordance with RSA 237:17, XIII. During the construction of the turnpike the governor may, if necessary, draw his warrant upon the highway fund to pay interest due on any bonds that have been issued in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision; such payment is to be repaid to the highway fund from the collection of tolls.

II. Tolls or charges collected for use of any section of the eastern New Hampshire turnpike, including the so-called Blue Star memorial highway and the so-called Spaulding highway, shall be kept in one account by the state treasurer to be known as the eastern New Hampshire turnpike fund. Payments therefrom shall be made as provided in paragraph I.